

Tickets

DRAWER 13A

-112000.02 02334

Ford's Theatre

The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln

Ford's Theatre Tickets

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

The Evening Star

WITH SUNDAY MORNING EDITION

WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, JULY 31, 1934. x

Lincoln's Blood on Card

VETERAN DISCOVERS RELIC OF ASSASSINATION.

A CARD stained by Lincoln's blood has just been discovered.

It marked a box chair in Ford's Theater as "Reserved" for the Great Emancipator, who was going to his death that night.

The years have preserved the card still covered by the blood which fell on it Friday night, April 14, 1865.

The relic was discovered yesterday among the yellowing papers and letters of Elnathan Meade, 89, Civil War veteran who for years has guarded the door of the President's Gallery in the house.

Meade, shot through the head by a bullet at the Battle of the Wilderness, for some time now has been putting his papers in order, spurred by failing eyesight. The Confederate missile cut squarely through his temples and Meade sometimes doubts if he can cheat blindness much longer.

Almost Forgot Relic.

Meade had almost forgotten the relic, tucked away in an old letter for more than 50 years. When he found it yesterday, he hastened to make an affidavit as to its authentic origin, and prepared to turn it over to the Lincoln Museum in the old Ford Theater.

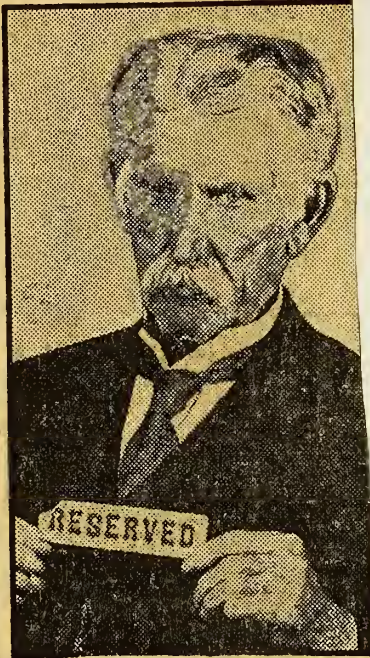
Meade's affidavit follows:

"I, Elnathan Meade, doorkeeper in Congress, make this statement under oath:

"William H. Smith, late a member of Company C, 44th New York Volunteer Infantry, was wounded at Gettysburg and later transferred to Company C, 24th Veterans' Reserve Corps, with a body of men disabled but competent to do guard duty at Government buildings and properties. His company was located on Seventh street, opposite the O street market, where the school buildings now stand.

Troops Sent to Theater.

"The night that Lincoln was shot Smith's company was ordered down to Ford's Theater. His company arrived at the theater at about 1 o'clock in the morning, put a guard on the door, stacked arms on the lower floor and scouted about. Smith went up stairs to the box circle where he picked up from beside the chair where Lincoln had sat, a card on which was printed "Reserved," and on which there were two or three large bloodstains and where blood was on the floor. In those days they used to put these slips on the chairs when they had been reserved and this one was picked up right at the side of Lincoln's chair



ELNATHAN MEADE.

—Star Staff Photo.

where blood had fallen from his wound.

"Comrade Smith at the close of the war in 1866 showed me this card, and the bloodstains were very distinct at that time. Later on he gave me this card and I told him when I parted with it I would try to have it put in with Lincoln's relics and have Smith's name put on it.

"Smith was at the close of the war a resident of the town of Potter and later of the town of Italy, in Yates County, N. Y., also my home county.

Man of Integrity.

"Comrade Smith, who is now deceased, was a man of intelligence and integrity and a good soldier and good citizen and respected by all who knew him. I served with him in the 44th New York Regiment and knew him well.

"I found this card when I looked through a box of old letters and papers which I have treasured for more than 50 years."

Meade swore to the affidavit before a notary public. He was anxious to see the relic in its proper place before that Confederate ball destroys his eyesight.

Discovers Card Marker For Seat Occupied By Lincoln

"Reserved" tag, taken from martyred President's theater box, found in Penn Yan home

Special to Courier-Express

Penn Yan, Aug. 12—In looking through some old papers, yellow and ragged with age, Elnathan Meade, of Middlesex, discovered a card which had the word "Reserved," on it, and which was used to reserve the box chair in the old Ford Theater, Washington, D. C., which was used by Abraham Lincoln, on the fateful night of April 14, 1865, when the Great Emancipator was assassinated. The card was stained with the lifeblood of the martyred President.

The precious record was discovered by Mr. Meade, who is 89 years old, a veteran of the Civil War, and has been guard at the door of the President's gallery in Washington, D. C. He had almost forgotten the relic which was given him by William H. Smith. The blood-stained card had been tucked away in an old letter for more than half a century, and was brought to light by Mr. Meade, who is putting his things in order because he fears the loss of his eyesight, which is failing. Mr. Meade was shot through the head by a Confederate bullet, at the Battle of the Wilderness, the pellet passing directly through both temples.

To Be Given to Museum

Mr. Meade is preparing to turn over the relic to the Lincoln Museum at the old Ford Theater, in Washington, D. C., and in doing so made the following affidavit:

"I, Elnathan Meade, doorkeeper, in Congress, make the following statement under oath:

"William H. Smith, late member of

Company C, 44th New York Volunteer Infantry, was wounded at Gettysburg and later transferred to Company C, 24th Veterans' Reserve Corps, with a body of men disabled, but competent to do guard duty at government buildings and properties. His company was located in Seventh Street, opposite the O Street marker, where the school buildings now stand.

"The night that Lincoln was shot Smith's Company was ordered down to Ford's Theater. His company arrived at the theater about 1 o'clock in the morning, put a guard on the door, stacked arms on the lower floor and scouted about. Smith went upstairs to the box circle, where he picked up from beside the chair where Lincoln sat a card on which was printed "Reserved," and on which there were two or three large blood stains, and where blood was on the floor.

Receives Card

"Comrade Smith, at the close of the war in 1866, showed me this card and the blood stains were very distinct at that time. Later on he gave me the card, and I told him when I parted with it I would try to have it put in with Lincoln's relics, and have Smith's name on it. Smith at the close of the war was a resident of the Town of Potter, and later of the Town of Italy, in Yates County, New York, also my home county.

"I found this card when I looked through a box of old letters and papers that I have treasured for more than 50 years."

Lincoln Theater Ticket Of Fatal Night Found

Treasured After 69 Years by Civil War Veteran

WASHINGTON, Nov. 3 (UP).—A stained card which marked a reserved box seat in Ford's Theater for Abraham Lincoln the night he was assassinated, has been discovered among the old papers and letters of Elnathan Meade, eighty-nine-year-old Civil War veteran. The card has been preserved for sixty-nine years.

Spurred by falling eyesight brought on by a head wound suffered at the Battle of the Wilderness, Meade hastened to ho his papers in order before blindness overtook him. He discovered the relic tucked away in an old letter.

The veteran has drawn up an affidavit certifying the card's authentic origin, and has offered it to the Ford Theater's Lincoln Museum.

Meade's affidavit said the card was discovered by William H. Smith, member of a Veterans' Reserve Corps, charged with guard duty at government buildings and properties.

The night Lincoln was shot, Meade explained, Smith's company was ordered to the theater. Upon arrival, Smith went to the box circle where he found the stained card marked "reserved" beside the chair Lincoln had occupied.

Meade said Smith showed him the card in 1866 and later presented it to him with instruction sto have it placed beside other Lincoln relics.

*m. d. (1934?)
or source*

3
Mr Warren

Alameda

act 18-37

Dear Sir

I have an admission Ticket to Fords Theatre Washington D.C. that was given to me 40 years ago by an old Soldier that said he used it there the night Pres- Lincoln was shot. I would like to sell this Ticket but I dont know what it is worth. I was told to write you as you would know more about it then any one in the world. would you kindly write me what you think it is worth. and who do you think might buy it and oblige yours Truly

T. J. Byrne

2005 Lincoln ave
Alameda

Cal-

*Admission Ticket to Terms
Shelton*

October 22, 1937

Mr. T. J. Byrnes
2005 Lincoln Avenue
Alameda, California

My dear Mr. Byrnes:

We thank you very much for your letter of October 12 but regret to say we cannot be of much help to you as we are not allowed to appraise Lincoln items.

It would be very difficult indeed to find anyone who would tell you what it is worth but it all depends on how badly one would like to have the ticket. So few of them have gone on the market that there is no record of what they have sold for so it is merely a matter of how much could be realized through contacting Lincoln students who might be interested.

Of course, we do acquire Lincoln items here in this Foundation and if you come to some decision as to what you want for the ticket, we will advise you whether or not we care to acquire it.

Very truly yours

LAW:AMR

Director

Alameda Oct 28, 31

Mr H. A. Warren

Dear Sir

Your letter of the 22^d received, but it did not give me what I hoped for. Some few years ago I went to see the Curator of the DeYoung Museum in San Francisco and showed him the Ticket, asked him if it was a genuine Ticket he said yes it was. I then asked him to set a price on it. he said if I would give you Ten thousand dollars Cash. and told you to buy another like it you could not do it. he said if I owned it money could not buy it. and I think you would be a nut if you would take less than Five thousand dollars for it. so I am going to ask that for it and I don't think I could buy another for twice that price. Would be glad to hear from you again and give me your opinion about the price.

Yours Truly

T. J. Byrnes

2035 Lincoln Ave

Alameda

Cal

fold Theatre Ticket \$ 5.000.

November 1, 1937

Mr. T. J. Byrnis
2005 Lincoln Avenue
Alameda, Calif.

My dear Mr. Byrnis:

We regret exceedingly that we are not allowed here in this foundation to appraise items neither do we make comments with reference to price for items offered to us.

Our only recourse with respect to your token is to say that we are not interested in its acquisition.

Very truly yours,

LAW:FW
L.A. Warren

Director

Theatre Ticket Features O-Mint Dollar On Reverse

By Ed Fleischmann

It has often been said that numismatics reflects a nation's history. Cyril Grillot, of Dayton, Ohio, brought a bit of history to the Coin World offices that reflects some of our nation's numismatic heritage.

The bit of history? A Ford's Theatre ticket which might have been used the night President Lincoln was assassinated. The numismatic tie-in? It depicts a New Orleans Mint half dollar reverse of the Liberty Seated type struck between 1842 and 1861.

An effort was made to learn more about the tickets. Two of the most helpful replies were received from Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry, director of the Lincoln National Life Foundation in Fort Wayne, Ind. and John T. Lissimore, historian of Ford's Theatre for the National Park Service in Washington, D. C.

Lissimore furnished descriptions of the tickets used at Ford's Theatre and copies of the tickets in the Lincoln Museum Collection.

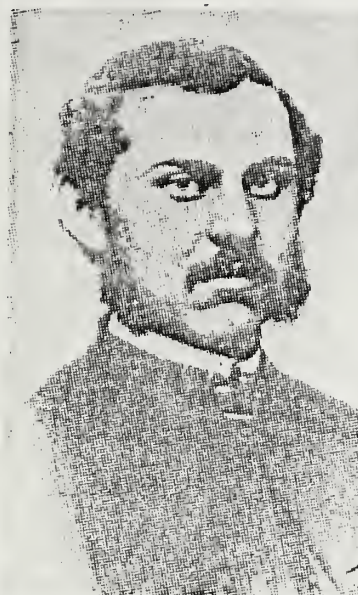
Family Circle patrons paid 25 cents admission for which they received a reddish-purple (magenta) ticket which carried a reduced size imprint of a half dollar reverse.

Dress Circle patrons received green tickets and Orchestra section tickets were yellow. These two did not carry any coin imprint.

Orange tickets were issued to patrons seated in the Parquette section. These resembled the Family Circle tickets but were orange in color and the half dollar imprint was slightly larger. Admission prices were 50 and 75 cents, according to the occasion and fame of the actors.

Lissimore stated that less than 10 tickets are known, six of them in the Lincoln Museum Collection.

Dr. McMurtry furnished photographs of a ticket which matched Grillot's and one bearing a facsimile of a \$1 gold piece. The \$1 ticket was not included in the descriptions of those in the Lincoln Museum collection though a \$1 admission price was mentioned by Lissimore.



This reproduction of a picture of H. Clay Ford was taken about 1865. Harry Clay Ford trimmed the presidential box on the afternoon of April 14, 1865, when John Wilkes Booth assassinated Lincoln.

This may solve one of the problems of historians. The blue colored ticket has been called a 10-cent ticket because of the size of the illustrated coin. But the likeness is that of a \$1 gold piece of the period, not that of a dime.

Both the 50 cent and \$1 tickets bear a facsimile signature of H. Clay Ford on the reverse and therein lies a small bit of

history that doesn't appear in our history books.

There were three Ford brothers associated with Ford's Theatre. John T. Ford, the oldest, was owner of the Theatre. James Reed Ford, the second, was business manager and Harry Clay, the youngest, was treasurer.

President Lincoln sent a messenger to the theatre on the morning of April 14, 1865, with a request that the presidential box be reserved for that evening's final performance of "Our American Cousin" starring Miss Laura Keane.

The messenger arrived at the theatre about 10:30 in the morning and shortly thereafter James Ford visited the Treasury Building where he borrowed several flags and a picture of Washington. One of the flags was a blue Treasury Guards' flag.

Harry Clay Ford trimmed the presidential box, using the flags and picture on the front of the box. The final touch was added when he placed a sofa and rocker, from his rooms on the third floor of the Star Saloon next door, in the box. President Lincoln always sat in that particular rocker when he attended the theatre.

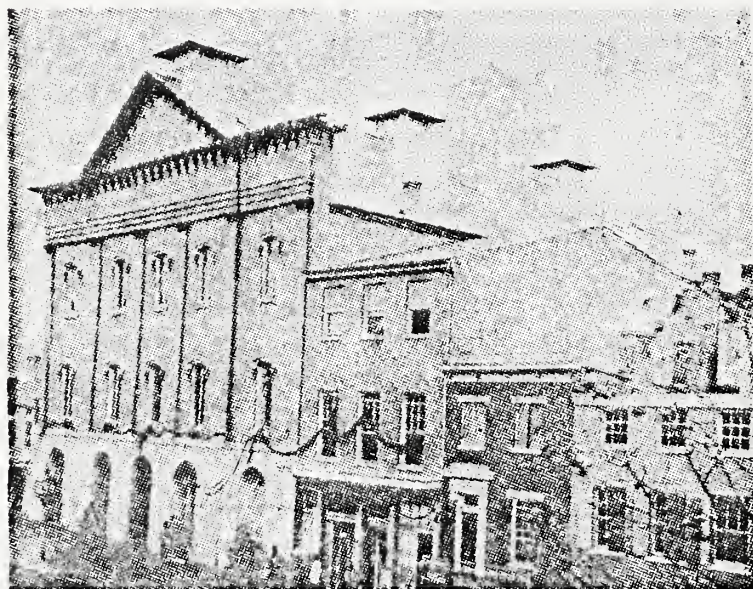
When Booth jumped from the box to the stage after he fired the fatal shot, one of his spurs got caught in the Treasury Guards' flag. That threw him off balance and caused him to break a small bone in his left leg just above the ankle.

The pain of the broken bone forced him to detour from his intended escape route. He stopped at the farm of Dr. Samuel Mudd where a splint was placed on the leg. Thus, indirectly, H. Clay Ford played a great part in the capture of John Wilkes Booth.

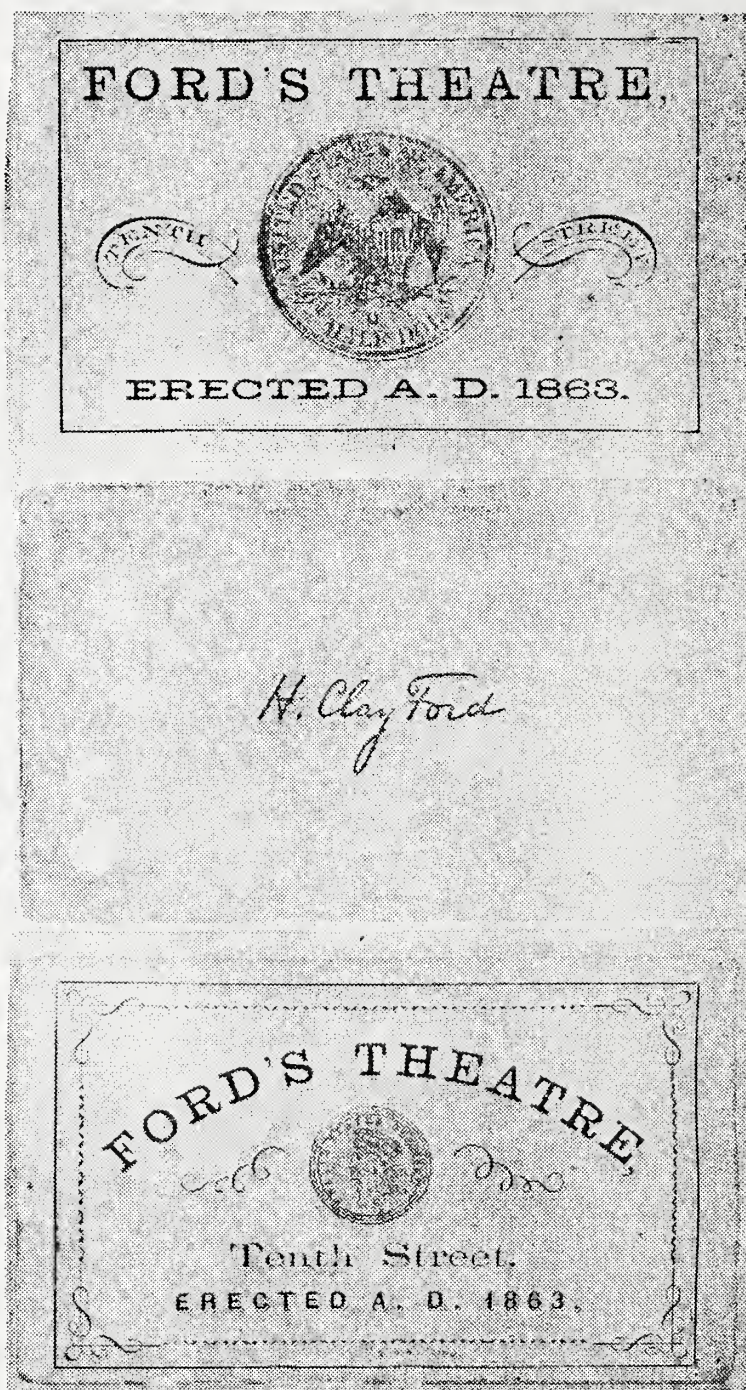
This story leaves us with a few unanswered questions that our readers might be able to help answer. Exactly how many tickets, of all denominations, are extant? What coin, if any, is shown on each of those tickets? If the Lincoln National Life Foundation ticket is indeed a \$1 ticket, what color and what coin is shown on the 10-cent ticket? And, did the ticket designer deliberately choose a half dollar that showed both the words "United States of America" to denote the Union and an "O" Mint mark to denote the Confederacy? Or was that accidental? And was it 1861?

Grillot's ticket brings the known total to nine tickets definitely located with, possibly, four more in existence.

One thing we know for certain . . . none of these tickets were used by Booth on the night of April 14, 1865. John Buckingham, ticket taker at Ford's Theatre, testified at the conspiracy trial that Booth was admitted without a ticket, "compliments of the house."



Ford's Theatre in mourning crepe on April 15, 1865. Peter Taltavul's Star Saloon occupied the first floor of the adjoining building. H. Clay Ford's rooms were on the third floor while a lounge for theatre patrons occupied the second floor. Booth had a drink in the Star Saloon just before going to the theatre to assassinate Lincoln.



Grillot's 50 cent ticket (top photo) may have led to a numismatic solution of a problem that has troubled historians in the past. Researchers have long called the blue ticket (bottom photo) a 10-cent ticket but the coin depicted is a \$1 gold piece of the period, not a dime. The confusion may have arisen if size was used as the basis for the conclusion. The center photo, a reverse, bears the printed signature of H. Clay Ford, and is common to both tickets.

524 LINCOLN, A.: An A.E.S., Feb. 28, 1865. "Let this man Polk Walters, take the oath of Dec. 8, 1863 & be discharged. A. Lincoln"; written on the remaining portion of the integral leaf of an A.L.S. from Gen. Thomas Wood to Gen. Burnside, Feb. 15, 1865. In this letter, Wood introduces a Mr. Murray who apparently initiated the discharge of Walters. (Fold lines to letter, age toning to endorsement), otherwise very fine. Both Wood and Burnside were distinguished C.W. Generals. (Est. 1,200-1,800)

"FORD'S THEATRE PLAYBILL"

525 (LINCOLN, A.): The Ford's Theatre playbill for Friday evening, April 14, 1865. "Benefit and Last Night of Miss Laura Keane"... "Our American Cousin", "Patriotic Song and Chorus"; "Honor to our Soldiers"; H. Polkinhorn and Son printers; D. St., near 7th, Washington, D.C.; 18½ x 5½. (Top trimmed ¼" into title of Ford's Theatre", minor fold weakness and soiling), but a fine example of one of the two versions printed for April 14, 1865. This version was amended as soon as it was known that the President was to attend that evening. (See Mary Benjamin's Autographs, A Key to Collecting, plate III, variant B.) Included in this lot is another playbill for the same day, a "Buckingham" copy or type (reproduction). Buckingham was the doorman at the theatre, and at a later date printed these copies; excellent. A total of two items. (Est. 2,500-3,500)

526 (LINCOLN, A.): "Ford's Theatre" ticket for the "Orchestra, Reserved Chair--Friday"; "Jas. R. Ford, Business Manager". A fine ticket on yellow stock paper; circular stampo, "Ford's Theatre April 14, 1865, This night only; section and no. not filled in. Verso note, in ink, "I certify that this is an original ticket for the evening that President Lincoln was assassinated April 14, 1865 and was presented to me by James R. Ford. John W. Haseltine, July 14, 1865". In excellent condition; 1 3/4 x 4½. (Est. 2,500-3,500)

527 (LINCOLN, A.): A large lock of Lincoln's hair, with a period letter to Mrs. Joseph Story, with what seems to be a private carrier's cancellation, "Reynolds and Cushman, New York, Aug. 19, 1865", and another dated on letter "May 5, 1865". The note states, "This hair cut from the head of Abraham Lincoln by Dr. L.B. Todd, cousin of Mrs. Lincoln - Taken with blood upon it. Mr. Swift, Brother-in-law of Todd gave it to J.A. Dodge April 15, from him to A.O. Bailey, his Brother-in-law, and from him to J.G.S. (Joseph Story)". (Est. 700-900)

RARE "REWARD" BROADSIDE

528 (LINCOLN, A.): Booth Reward Broadside. "War Department, Washington, April 20, 1865, \$100,000 Reward! The murderer of our late beloved President, Abraham Lincoln, is still at large... Edwin M. Stanton, Sec. of War." Gives description of Booth, Surrat and Herold. A variant issue, without the three photo's; 24 x 13. (Mounted on linen, a few stains, mostly upper left corner; tear and fold lines mended), Fine and very rare. (Est. 3,500-4,500)

"SEARCH FOR BOOTH"

529 (LINCOLN, A.): A diary, written by Gen. James Rowan O'Beirne, Provost Marshal of the District of Columbia, being a first-hand account of the search for Booth and Herold, following the assassination of the President. Included in the fourteen pages concerning O'Beirne's pursuit of the assassins, are many intriguing entries, of which the following are but a sample - "Watch the woman of Atzarodt (sic) at her house overnight."; "Mudd near Bryantown, son of Wm. A. Mudd a wild rabid man... is (a) black hearted man & possibly a conspirator see after him..."; "Pope's Creek, has been a crossing the conspirators are there if they have not crossed over..."; "Herold was coming backwards & forwards to visit the dissipated set at Port Tobacco even just after his father's death...". He gives a description of Atzarodt: "Medium height, black hair, ... looks like a German, a smiling man, ordinary."; "Mr. Brawner on the road that leads to Marbry's Wharf, arrest him"; "Apl 19th 7 o'clock, met Mr. Fellows of Col. Baker's force..."; "Send the men over to Mattox Creek to work their way up & arrest Jones (who was later jailed, but released for lack of evidence; years later he admitted hiding and feeding Booth for six days)...". "Mr. Wills tells me that old

man Claggett had a conversation with the two men who went over the river on Sunday...(relates information)"; "Apl 22/65, 4:15 p.m., Learned from a colored man at White Point, Va. that... two men with black whiskers... landed a boat & left it hastily... got the boat & a pair of suspenders."; "Saml. Cox (at Scotia Swamp)- his mill servant stated... that Cox had been cooking provisions late & carrying it to persons down in the swamp..."; "Jordan Middleton, a smooth, oily, deceitful man, his wife is the sister of Dr. Sam. Mudd..."; "Apl 25/65, Three rebel soldiers were arrested at this (Middleton's) house."; "Apl 25/65, Herold & Booth came out of a belt of cedars within 150 yards of Turner's house on the morning of Apl. 25th between hours of 6 and 7. Spoke to a colored girl at Turner's house asked for food... one on a crutch, they asked if there was anyone in the house & if they could get some water they were told to come up to the house but did not do so, the last seen of them was tending in an easterly direction... today shows that they have made a circuit ... in which they were & are not 5 miles distant. The two men are Booth & Herold beyond doubt.". Diary is leather bound (covers somewhat scuffed), written in pencil and ink; 8vo; (some minor water stains to edge of paper, not affecting entries. Beautifully housed in leather and cloth bound slip-case. A rare and historically important piece, documenting the man-hunt for the assassins of the President. (Est. 5,500-6,500)

"Without any personal regard for Mr. Lincoln, I considered him a kind-hearted man... nothing could have made me willing to adopt assassination..."

530 DAVIS, JEFFERSON: An A.L.S., 7 pp., 8vo, 33 Camp Street N(ew) Orleans), 11 May 1876; to Col. C. J. Wright. "My dear Crafts, I have received your two very welcome letters... it is very painful for me to realize, as I must, in discussing questions of the sectional war, that my early and ever dear friend, is not in accord with me. My father was a revolutionary soldier, and as you see by the name he gave me, a friend of Thomas Jefferson, and an adherent to the states rights doctrine. I grew up in that faith, and could no more conscientiously (sic) have abandoned it, than I could have deserted a friend when surrounded by foes."... "The diary of one Jones (see previous lot) I have not seen, but suppose the poor devil after having fed on the Confederacy until it went down, then framed his story anew so as to gain admission to other pastures."... "little credibility is to be given to his tale of the proposition to assassinate Presdt. Lincoln. Would anyone... send it through the Adj. Genls. Dept., where he (Jones) only could have seen it. If so sent, it would not have been referred to me, but to the Secty. of War. Would any man who ever filled that office, have sent it to me. Yet these are the preliminaries to his falsehood, that I returned it without rebuke."... "Col. Alston... at the time when it was attempted to implicate me in the murder of Mr. Lincoln, published a statement... to this effect, that an officer... had sent to me... a letter offering his services to go secretly and assassinate Mr. Lincoln, and that I... (ordered) the officer to be arrested, and brought before a court Martial."... "The other story, of what I said to Breckenridge on receipt of the news of Lincoln's death is an equally bald falsehood. Breckenridge was not with me, but... sent me the telegram announcing the death of Mr. L. The news was to me very sad, for I felt that Mr. Johnson was a malignant man, and without the power, or generosity which I believed Mr. Lincoln possessed."... "One who was there present... says that when I handed the telegram to Mr. Johnson (a eminent citizen of Charleston), that I remarked this is sad news, and that the crowd called for the reading of the telegram, that when it was read, someone shouted and that I checked it, with remarks of sadness. The fact was, that without any personal regard for Mr. Lincoln, I considered him a kind hearted man, and very much preferred by us to his successor, Mr. Johnson; but had it been otherwise nothing could have made me willing to adopt assassination as a means to be employed."... "Though several attempts were made to assassinate me during the War... neither I, or those associated with me, believed Mr. Lincoln to be particeps criminis."... "Jefferson Davis". (Fold lines, evidence of mounting, minor soiling), otherwise very fine. (Ex-Oliver Barrett Collection, see Parke-Bernet Sale, lot #777; also see Sandburg's Lincoln Collector, pp. 292-293.) An important letter. (Est. 3,000-4,000)

